

Mississippi Trauma Advisory Committee

Ramada Inn Southwest Jackson, MS Minutes

May 23, 2002

MTAC Members Present:

Hugh Gamble, M.D.
Jerry Green
John Nelson, M.D.
John Lucas, M.D.
David Cook, R.N.
Bob McDonald
John Braham, M.D.
Marshall Tucker
Charles Piggott, M.D.
Christine Weiland, R.N.
Robert Galli, M.D.
Wells Wilson, M.D.
John Cook, M.D.
William T. Avara, M.D.

MTAC Members Not Present:

Brennett Lyles, R.N., REMT-P
Rodney Frothingham, M.D.
Lucy Cumbest, R.N.
William Billups, III, M.D.

Others Present:

Jim Craig
Keith Parker
Jim Wadlington
Jonathan Chaney
Janice Conerly
David Buchanan

I. Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order by Dr. Gamble at 1:00 p.m.

II. Adoption of Minutes:

Minutes from April 4, 2002 MTAC meeting were adopted by acclamation.

III. Director's Report

Mr. Craig provided each member of the MTAC a copy of the draft State Trauma Plan. Mr. Craig asked the MTAC members to review the document and submit

any comments to the DEMS office.

Mr. Craig provided each member a copy of the report by the State Auditor's Office. The report has three findings and recommendations which include: 1.) Adequate documentation is needed for support of the purported addition of personnel cost; 2.) The need for improved documentation of contract deliverables and contract monitoring of Trauma System contracts, and 3.) Increased audits of the Trauma Care Trust Fund disbursements to Trauma Centers and physicians.

Mr. Craig discussed a legal opinion received from the Attorney General's legal staff at the Mississippi State Department of Health regarding the confidentiality and discoverability of the Hospital Status Program. It states that the Hospital Status Program would be protected under the current trauma law.

IV Reports:

A. Central Trauma Care Region

No report given.

B. North Trauma Care Region

No report given.

C. Coastal Trauma Care Region

Dr. Avara discussed the Pediatric Education Symposium held in the Coastal Trauma Care Region. He reported a good turn-out and positive feedback from the participants.

He stated that Jim Wadlington gave a presentation to the Coastal Trauma Care Region board on the school-based injury prevention curriculum, Risk Watch. He stated the Region would promote efforts to include this curriculum in the area schools.

Dr. Avara stated that one of the biggest problems in the Coast Trauma Care Region was the lack of transfer agreements with other facilities. The Coastal Region is working to come up with a solution to a generic transfer agreement.

Lastly, Dr. Avara discussed the declining availability of Neurosurgeons in the Coastal Region and the impact it is having on coverage for neurosurgery services.

D. Southeast Trauma Care Region

Dr. Brahan stated that Forrest General Hospital received a Trauma Center Inspection in April and was waiting for the results. He also discussed the half-day trauma symposium held in the Southeast Trauma Care Region.

E. Delta Trauma Care Region

No report given.

F. Southwest Trauma Care Region

Dr. Wilson discussed the concern of physicians in the Southwest Trauma Care Region regarding the malpractice issues and the effect it is going to have on some hospitals within the Southwest Trauma Care Region.

G. East Central Trauma Care Region

Dr. Billups reported that the three hospitals in Meridian are now an active participants in the East Central Trauma Care Region and each would be seek Level III designations.

V Inclusion of “The Med” in Uncompensated Care Reimbursement

Dr. Gamble discussed letters received from Mr. Espy, Mr. Gordon, Mr. Minor, and Mr. Huggins in support of allowing “The Med” to participate in the uncompensated care reimbursement and a letter from Southeast Trauma Care Region requesting for “The Med” not be included in the uncompensated care reimbursement.

Dr. Gamble stated the MTAC’s position has always been to the State Board of Health, that the MTAC supports inclusion of any hospital - in or out of the state - that cares for Mississippi patients, but that inclusion should not be done at the risk of bankrupting the system within the State of Mississippi.

Dr. Avara made a motion to ask the State Board of Health not to include out-of-state hospitals in the reimbursement until such time the state can acquire adequate funding. The motion was seconded by Dr. Nelson.

Dr. Gamble recognized Senator Delma Furniss for comments. Senator Furniss requested the MTAC recommend to the State Board of Health that “The Med” be included in the uncompensated care reimbursement. He stated that this was the intent of the appropriation bill that was signed by the Governor.

Dr. Gamble recognized Representative Chuck Espy for comments. Representative Espy also requested the MTAC recommend to the State Board

of Health that “The Med” be included in the uncompensated care reimbursement. He state that because one third of the patients cared for at “The Med” are Mississippi patients, they should be included in the fund.

After these discussions, the MTAC voted 14 to 1 not to include “The Med” in the uncompensated care reimbursement. Bob McDonald cast the only dissenting vote.

VI Inclusion of all Physicians in Uncompensated Care Reimbursement

Dr. Gamble informed the MTAC members that the State Board of Health passed an “intent to adopt” motion at the April 2002 Board of Health Meeting to include all physicians caring for trauma patients in the uncompensated care reimbursement. This motion is up for final adoption at the July 2002 Board of Health Meeting.

Dr. Avara made the motion to request the State Board of Health not include, at this time, any other physicians in uncompensated care reimbursement from the trauma system. The motion was seconded by Dr. Piggott.

After discussion on these issues, the MTAC voted unanimously to request that the State Board of Health not include additional physicians at this time.

VII Confidential Session

MTAC enters into confidential session.

VIII Other Business:

Dr. Gamble called the open meeting back in order. Mr. Tucker made a motion to request the State Board of Health to vigorously go before the Legislature at it’s next session to request additional funding for the trauma system so the issues that were discussed at this meeting can be met, both instate, out-of-state, and with the provision of reimbursement for other physicians. The motion was seconded by Dr. Avara. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Avara made a motion to ask the Mississippi State Board of Health to commune with the Division of Medicaid and the Governor’s Office to try to see whether or not a waiver can be obtained from CMS to allow Mississippi trauma funds to apply to the federal match. The motion was seconded by Dr. Piggott. The motion passed unanimously.

XII Adjourn at 3:00 p.m.